

sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The independent claims have been amended in accordance with the disclosure in the specification at page 31, lines 2-11, to limit the recited polymer encapsulated colorant to one produced by polymerizing monomers for constituting the polymer in the presence of the dye or pigment. This recitation further distinguishes the claimed ink composition from the ink compositions described in the cited primary reference which are produced by mixing or milling a colorant and a polymer together after the polymer has already been formed. Ink compositions with a pigment encapsulated colorant produced by the claimed method are unexpectedly superior in light stability to ink compositions with a pigment encapsulated colorant produced by mixing or milling the separately formed components. Applicants intend to submit a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 to show this, if necessary and desirable. Nevertheless, Applicants submit below that the Examiner has not yet set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness that would require the submission of such evidence.

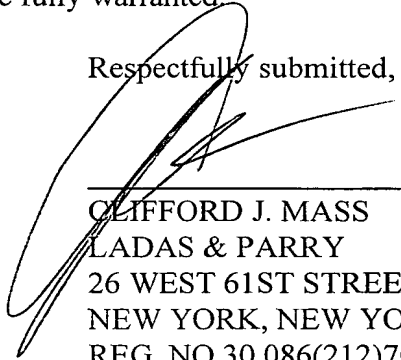
The claims stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nguyen et al in view of Page et al or in view of this combination of references further in view of Takemoto et al or Durand et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

All claims presently on file require that the polymer encapsulating the colorant in the claimed ink composition has, in its molecular chain, sites possessing both

ultraviolet absorbing activity and photostabilizing activity. The Examiner interprets this claim language as reading on a polymer having in its molecular chain one site possessing both ultraviolet absorbing activity and photostabilizing activity. Assuming for the sake of argument that this interpretation were correct, the Examiner has respectfully not pointed out where this claim limitation is described in the cited Nguyen et al reference. In paragraph 13 of the Official Action, the Examiner contends that benzotriazole, for instance, could provide polymer with both ultraviolet absorbing activity and photostabilizing activity, but she has offered no rationale or reference in support of this contention. Applicants respectfully call on the Examiner to support such contention with a suitable affidavit or other evidence in accordance with the provisions of MPEP Section 2144.03. In the absence of such evidence, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of record are insufficient even to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the invention now claimed and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, which address all outstanding objections and rejections, an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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Claim 1 (four times amended) An ink composition comprising a colorant comprising a dye or a pigment and a polymer encapsulating the dye or pigment and having, in its molecular chain, sites possessing ultraviolet absorbing activity and photostabilizing activity; water; and a water-soluble organic solvent, wherein the polymer encapsulated colorant is in the form of a fine particle in the ink composition and the polymer has a glass transition point of 30°C or below and comprises a carboxyl or sulfonic acid group, and wherein the polymer encapsulated colorant is produced by polymerizing monomers for constituting the polymer in the presence of the dye or pigment.

Claim 4 (twice amended) The ink composition according to claim [2] 1, wherein the polymer has hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups.

Claim 26 (four times amended) A colorant comprising a dye or a pigment and a polymer encapsulating the dye or the pigment and having, in its molecular chain, sites possessing ultraviolet absorbing activity and photostabilizing activity, the colorant being in the form of fine particles and the polymer having a glass transition point of 30°C or below and comprising a carboxyl or sulfonic acid group, the polymer encapsulated colorant being produced by polymerizing monomers for constituting the polymer in the presence of the dye or pigment.